

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 09012 171832Z

63

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-11

IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /102 W

----- 021375

R 171621Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2200

USAEC WASHDC

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, UK

SUBJECT: HMG NUCLEAR POWER DECISION

1. EMBASSY HAS REPORTED FULLY ON EVENTS LEADING UP TO HMG NUCLEAR POWER DECISION. POST-MORTEM COMMENTARIES WERE APPENDED TO LONDON'S A-602 AND A-615

2. IN OUR OPINION, HMG DECISION IN FAVOR OF SGHWRS IS AN INTERIM CHOICE LARGELY DICTATED BY PRE-ELECTION POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, WHICH MIGHT WELL BE REVIEWED BEFORE 1977-78 AS NOW CONTEMPLATED. WE BELIEVE HMG'S FORECASTS OF LOWER ELECTRICITY GENERATION REQUIREMENTS, ITS EXPECTATION THAT SGHWR CONSTRUCTION CAN GET OFF TO SUCCESSFUL EARLY START AND ITS SUBSTANTIAL RELIANCE ON FOSSIL-FUEL PLANTS ARE UNREALISTIC. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CONTINUED INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION, ALBEIT A SOMEWHAT SLOWER RATE OF GROWTH THAN PREVIOUSLY FORECAST, AND BOTTLENECKS WITH SGHWR PROGRAM, AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER COAL-MINERS' STRIKE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, MIGHT COMPEL HMG TO SUPPLEMENT ANNOUNCED SGHWR PROGRAM BY LATE 1975 OR 1976, FAR SOONER THAN ANTICIPATED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 09012 171832Z

2. WHILE NOT COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY ON SUBJECT OF LWR

SAFETY, SEC STATE FOR ENERGY VARLEY'S WHITE PAPER DID  
STATE "CHOICE OF SGHWR FOR OUR NEXT NUCLEAR POWER STATION  
ORDERS DOES NOT IMPLY ANY JUDGMENT ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF

LWRS. THE GOVERNMENT HAVE ASKED THE NUCLEAR INSTALLA-  
TIONS INSPECTORATE TO CARRY THROUGH TO CONCLUSIONS THEIR  
EXAMINATION OF THE GENERIC SAFETY ISSUES." IN OUR VIEW  
THIS EXPRESSION OF NEUTRALITY ON LWR SAFETY ISSUES AND  
ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR  
REVIEW LEAVES DOOR OPEN FOR FAVORABLE RECONSIDERATION OF  
LWRS AS ADJUNCT TO SGHWR PROGRAM WITHIN 18 MONTHS TO 2  
YEARS.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS USAEC AND WESTINGHOUSE CONTINUE TO  
COOPERATE TO FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE WITH WALTER MARSHALL  
(DIRECTOR, HARWELL AND RECENTLY APPOINTED CHIEF SCIENTI-  
FIC ADVISER, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY) AND E.C. WILLIAMS,  
(CHIEF, NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE, DEPT. OF  
ENERGY) IN THEIR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING LWR  
SAFETY QUESTIONS. SIMILARLY, IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE  
FOR WESTINGHOUSE TO CONTINUE ITS COOPERATIVE EFFORTS,  
LEST GERMAN COMPETITOR KRAFTWERKE UNION BECOME ULTIMATE  
BENEFICIARY OF US FIRM'S EFFORTS OVER PAST YEAR.

SOHM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NUCLEAR ENERGY, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LONDON09012  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740192-0786  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740742/aaaabjqb.tel  
**Line Count:** 86  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SCI  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20-Jul-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <20 JUN 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HMG NUCLEAR POWER DECISION  
**TAGS:** ENRG, TECH, UK  
**To:** STATE AEC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005